



Kentucky Home Care

Sadieville, Ky.

Dear Doctor _____:

I want to express to you my sincerest appreciation for the work done by the health department in helping old people.

My mother Mrs. _____ aged 87 requested that her last days be spent at home rather than in a hospital. This request would have been impossible to grant had it not been for the untiring efforts of your health nurses.

Especially am I indebted to Mrs. _____. Mother anxiously awaited her visit each day. She always brought along a ray of sunshine with her. Towards the last, when mother was so ill, she worked fervently trying to ease her and make her more comfortable. She showed me many things that made the nursing job easier.

I think this home visitation by the nurses is the most wonderful thing that has happened for the physical welfare of the aged.

Again, may I congratulate you and your staff for the wonderful work which you are doing.

Best regards,
Mrs. _____

THIS LETTER and others like it put into words the public's warm, spontaneous response to Kentucky's home care program, which was set in motion January 1, 1958, by the State health department.

Cooperation the Keynote

Working closely with county medical societies and health agencies, the division of chronic diseases of the Kentucky State Department of Health spearheads and broadens the home care program throughout the State. This is done with the assistance of the department's divisions of health education, public health nursing, and nutrition.

The home care program is more than home nursing. It includes nutrition, physical therapy, and psychiatric and community services. Yet it remains essentially a simple type of service for chronically ill patients needing medical supervision but not hospitalization; those needing continuing medical care, instruction in self-administration of drugs, or special diets; and those who might benefit from home physiotherapy. Services also extend to patients in

nursing homes without a registered nurse on the staff.

In the five-county area selected for the program's demonstration, an additional nurse has been added to each county nursing staff. All the staff nurses have been trained further by the Louisville Visiting Nurse Association and the Rehabilitation Clinic of the Louisville General Hospital, and a nutritionist, physical therapist, and social worker have been made available by the State health department.

Physician and Nurse Liaison

Home care patients first enter the program on recommendation of the attending physician, who prescribes a specific regimen of care for the nurse. After the visit, the nurse reports back to the physician. The conditions found most frequently among home care patients are cancer, heart disease, hypertension, and rheumatic fever.

Public enthusiasm for the home care program

has brought the opportunity for group activities for the chronically ill and aged in one county, through a Senior Citizens Health Club.

To health agencies contemplating home care programs, the Kentucky State Department of Health offers these guidelines:

If you are waiting for more money, remember, there will never be enough. If there isn't adequate staff, let us use what we have. Leadership? Why not supply your own?

The people, the taxpayers know what they want. When they get services that they want they will support them. There is a lot of evidence that the people want tangible services—not just advice. Where tangible services are provided, the public supports the health department. It's just common sense.

To obtain more information about the Kentucky program of rural home care, write to Russell E. Teague, M.D., Secretary, Kentucky State Department of Health, Louisville, Ky., for a copy of the Bulletin of March-April 1959.

Cutler on Special Assignment

Dr. John C. Cutler, Assistant Surgeon General for Program, Public Health Service, has been assigned to the Allegheny County (Pa.) Health Department to direct that agency's central district.

The assignment was requested by the health directors of both the State and county, primarily to help materialize their plans for a local health demonstration unit which may serve as a model for other areas. Dr. Cutler has also joined the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health.

Prior to his current post, which he has held since July 1958, Dr. Cutler was assistant director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Public Health Service. After his appointment to the Commissioned Corps in 1942, he held a number of research,

instructional, and administrative posts in this country and abroad. He conducted venereal disease research at the Service's research laboratory at Staten Island before continuing his research and control work in this field overseas. In 1948 he received from the Guatemalan Government the Order of Merit for his work during an assignment to the Pan American Health Organization. He also organized a public health demonstration and training program in India for the World Health Organization in 1949-50.

Dr. Cutler is a diplomate of the American Board of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, a fellow of the American Public Health Association, counselor for the International Union Against Venereal Disease and Treponematoses, and director of the District of Columbia Social Hygiene Society.